Extension of Rail Line from Dimapur/Dhansirl to Imphal

*191. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the past, there was proposal for extension of railway line from Dimapur/Dhansiri (Assam) to Imphal *via* Jalukie-Peren and for which survey was carried out and submitted for consideration;

(b) if so, what went wrong with the proposal; and

(c) if not, what is the alternative arrangement to extend railway line to Imphal from Assam?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) The work of new line from Diphu (Dhansiri) to Karong as first phase of line to Imphal was included in the Budget 1997-98 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances. The requisite clearance for the project was received in September, 1998. The proposed line was passing through States of Assam and Nagaland. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Distt. Council protested the railway line as it was passing through Dhansiri reserve forest area under the administrative control of the Council and desired an approach paper on the project. Meanwhile, Chief Minister/Manipur requested to consider alternative alignment from Jiribam to Imphal to provide connectivity to the State Capital of Manipur. The work of new line from Jiribam to Imphal Road (Tupul) was included in the Supplementary Budget 2003-04 in lieu of Diphu (Dhansiri)-Karong new line.

Procurement target of Wheat

†*192. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat production in the country during the current year will be more than the last year;

(b) if so, whether Government have also set any target for the procurement of wheat;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.